

In response to the Office Action dated July 30, 2002 (Paper No. 4), please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-6 and add new claims 7-14 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of these claims showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

---

1. (Amended) A lubricated tablet comprising:

a compressed mixture of an active substance which is adversely affected by a lubricant and an adjuvant, said compressed mixture not containing said lubricant, wherein

said lubricant is contained only on the surface of said tablet.

2. (Amended) The tablet as set forth in claim 1, wherein said active substance is a chemical having a functional group.

3. (Amended) The tablet as set forth in claim 1, wherein the active substance is at least one of ascorbic acid and acetylsalicylic acid.

4. (Amended) The tablet as set forth in any one of claims 1 - 3, said compressed mixture being an admixture of first and second granules, said first granules comprising said active substance and said second granules comprising said adjuvant wherein

said first and second granules have substantially same particle diameters.

---

5. (Amended) A method for producing a lubricated tablet comprising the steps of:

producing a mixture of an active substance affected by a lubricant admixed with an adjuvant, said mixture not containing said lubricant,

dispersing a powder of said lubricant within positive pulsating vibration air,

spraying said dispersed lubricant powder on a lower surface of an upper punch, an upper surface of a lower punch and an inner circumferential wall of a die in a tableting machine, and

tableting said mixture within said lubricated upper and lower punches and die.

6. (Amended) The method for producing a tablet as set forth in claim 5, wherein said spraying step comprises:

(i) spraying said dispersed lubricant powder substantially vertically onto said lower punch and said die when said lower punch attains a predetermined position in said die, and

(ii) spraying said dispersed lubricant powder onto said lower surface of said upper punch while said upper punch travels along its moving path.

7. (New) The tablet as set forth in claim 1, wherein said tablet does not contain ascorbic acid.

8. (New) The tablet as set forth in claim 7, wherein said active substance is a chemical having a functional group.

9. (New) The tablet as set forth in claim 7, wherein said active substance is acetylsalicylic acid.

10. (New) The tablet as set forth in any one of claims 7 - 9, wherein said compressed mixture is an admixture of first and second granules, said first granules comprising said active substance and said second granules comprising said adjuvant, wherein said first and second granules have substantially same particle diameters.

11. (New) The method for producing a tablet as set forth in claim 1, wherein said active substance is not affected by said lubricant on the surface of said tablet.

12. (New) The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said active substance is a chemical having a functional group.

13. (New) The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein said active substance is at least one of ascorbic acid and acetylsalicylic acid.

14. (New) The method as set forth in any one of claims 11 - 13, wherein said compressed mixture being an admixture of first and second granules, said first granules comprising said active substance and said second granules comprising said adjuvant, wherein said first and second granules have substantially same particle diameters.